

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/323) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Please explain this programme.

- a. What did it do?
- b. When did it start?
- c. Who will be affected by its cessation?

Answer:

- a. The primary role of the outreach programme was to:
 - publicise the department's skilled migration options;
 - increase awareness of the sponsorship process and responsibilities of employers;
 - publicise the rights and responsibilities of visa holders; and
 - provide a direct engagement channel between the department, industry peak bodies, employers, regional communities and unions on policy and labour market issues impacting these.
- b. The Outreach Officer Network commenced in October 2004 and expanded in 2009.
- c. The outreach officer programme ceased on 30 June 2014. Those affected by the programme cessation include the industry bodies, trade unions and their respective member organisations which hosted outreach officers.